FORM PTO-1083

01-17-2007

Attorney Docket No.: 101.0044-03000

Customer No. 22882

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gary Karlin Michelson, M.D.

Serial No: 09/497,590

Filed: June 6, 2000 For: APPARATUS

APPARATUS INCLUDING A GUARD MEMBER HAVING A PASSAGE WITH A NON-CIRCULAR

CROSS SECTION FOR PROVIDING PROTECTED

ACCESS TO THE SPINE (as amended)

Confirmation No.: 7688

JAN 1 7 2007

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3764 Art Unit:

Examiner: Michael Brown

Mail Stop AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in reply to the August 28, 2006 Office Action in the above-identified application.

No additional fee is required.

 \boxtimes Applicant hereby requests a two-month extension of time to respond to the above office action.

冈 An Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and Form PTO-1449 are enclosed.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Col. 2) HIGHEST NUMB PREVIOUSLY PAID		(Col. 3) PRESENT EXTRA*	LG/SI \$ ENTITY		D'L DUE
TOTAL CLAIMS FEE	78	-	85		0	LG≔\$50 SM=\$25	\$50	\$ 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS FEE	2	-	3	•••	0	LG=\$200 SM=\$100	\$200	\$ 0
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS LARGE ENTITY FEE = \$280 \$MALL ENTITY FEE = \$140								\$ 0
					_		TOTAL	\$ ٥

If the entry In Col. 1 Is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "1" In Col. 3.

If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box on Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

- \boxtimes A fee in the amount of \$630.00 to cover the \$450 two-month extension fee and \$180 IDS fee is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-3726.
- \bowtie The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3726. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.
 - Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims
 - Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17

Respectfully submitted. MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Date: January 17, 2007

Thomas H. Martin Registration No. 34.383

1557 Lake O'Pines Street, NE Hartville, Ohio 44632 Telephone: 330-877-0700 Facsimile: 330-877-2030

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MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP 1557 Lake O'Pines Street, NE Hartville, Ohio 44632

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3308772030

Name: Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Name:

Thomas H. Martin, Esq.

Group Art Unit 3764/Examiner M. Brown

Firm: U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

Phone No.: 330-877-2277

Fax No.: 571-273-8300

No. of Pages (including this): 21

Subject: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/497,590

Date:

January 17, 2007

Filed: June 6, 2000

Gary Karlin Michelson

APPARATUS INCLUDING A GUARD MEMBER HAVING A PASSAGE WITH A NON-CIRCULAR

CROSS SECTION FOR PROVIDING PROTECTED ACCESS TO THE SPINE (as amended) Attorney Docket No. 101.0044-03000

Customer No. 22882 Confirmation No.: 7688 Confirmation Copy to Follow: NO

Message:

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that the attached Transmittal Form (in duplicate; total amount of \$630.00 to cover the \$450 two-month extension fee and \$180 IDS fee is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-3726), Amendment with 1 new drawing sheet containing Fig. 42, and Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) with Form PTO-1449 are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 17, 2007.

Sandra L. Blackmon

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PATENT Attorney Docket No. 101.0044-03000 Customer No. 22882

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In re Application of:	Confirmation No.: 7688	JAN 1 7 2007
Gary Karlin Michelson)		51 11 1 E001
Serial No.: 09/497,590	Group Art Unit: 3764	
Filed: June 6, 2000	Examiner: Michael Brown	
For: APPARATUS INCLUDING A GUARD)		
MEMBER HAVING A PASSAGE)		
WITH A NON-CIRCULAR CROSS)		
SECTION FOR PROVIDING)		
PROTECTED ACCESS TO THE)		
SPINE (as amended)		•

Mail Stop AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

From-MARTIN&FERRAROLLP

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In reply to the Office Action of August 28, 2006, the period for reply having been extended for two months by a request for extension and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 12 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 14 of this paper.

Amendment 1-17-07.doc

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PAGE 4/21 * RCVD AT 1/17/2007 4:54:54 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/7 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:3308772030 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-30